

THE MNN

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May 2009



Rebecca Landsberry

Letter from the Editor:

Happy May readers! It feels like the month has barely begun and already it seems that the finishing touches of the 35th Annual Creek Festival are being completed. I know the folks at Tourism & Recreation have been working very hard, as well as a number of departments here at the complex, to make this year's event one for the history books. It's great to hear how employees from everywhere are volunteering in order to make the Muscogee Festival a huge success.

As part of this year's festivities, the Miss Muscogee Scholarship Pageant will take place at 7 p.m., Fri., June 5 and will continue at 10 a.m., Sat., June 6 at the Henryetta High School Auditorium. It is always exciting to see a new crop of Mvskoek women crowned at this event who will, no doubt, represent our Nation with grace, dignity and beauty.

Switching gears, for those of you more interested in getting your hands (and everything else) a little dirty, the slow-pitch softball tournament is also coming up June 12-14. I won't list the times here, because if you've ever watched a game, you know they can and will play until early Sunday morning. For more information on this year's tournament, call (918) 732-7990 or toll free at 1-800-4825-1978.

For next month, we hope to have a festival preview *Extra Edition* published Mon., June 8, that will highlight all the upcoming features for the Creek Festival 2009. If you have news, events or story ideas, please contact the Communications Department by phone at (918) 732-7720 or e-mail me at RLandsberry@muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

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Rep. David Nichols serves on the Business and Governmental Committee



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• 2009 Muscogee Festival



Welcome from the MCN Office of Tourism & Recreation

CULTURAL - 8

MUSCOGEE NATION AND MISSION NATIVE AMERICA FILLING THE GAP

by Thompson Gouge
MCN Public Relations

OKMULGEE — On Fri., May 8, 2009, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation along with Mission Native America, distributed surplus furniture to Creek citizens who were in need.

Dr. Jerry Mash was on-site with Mission Native America in order to help meet the needs of the many Muscogee (Creek) people who showed up for the event. "The key thing was to identify people with great need," said Dr. Mash.

Preparation for this day began in November 2008 when the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Services Division helped orchestrate this event.

"The mission asked us to ensure that families in need received the furniture for their use and to not be sold for money or put in garage sales, so we tried to honor their gift to our citizens

by being judicious in ensuring a citizen's need," stated Dr. Danette McIntosh, Director of Community Services. "Our staff performed assessments to determine how much property would be distributed."



The event was invitation-only and in order to receive these supplies, participants

must have been eligible for others services through the tribe such as Social Services, TANF, Food Distribution, WIC, Reintegration, MCN Children and Family Services, Child Care and Head Start.

Bumper-to-bumper traffic lined the streets

throughout the complex on Friday afternoon but with the help of Lighthorse Police and Muscogee (Creek) Nation employees, many needy families became the recipients of much needed supplies for their homes.

On behalf of the tribe, *mvto* (thank you) to all those who volunteered their time and effort for this event. For more information, please contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Public Relations at (918) 732 - 7618.

May deadline approaching for 2009 Festival activities

by Rebecca Landsberry
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE — The deadline to participate in many of the 35th Annual Muscogee Festival activities is quickly approaching. Fri., May 29, 2009 at 5 p.m., will mark the end of many opportunities to participate in friendly competition and possibly score some cash at many of this year's events.

The golf tournament, which will be held at the Okmulgee Golf Club this year, will feature both a four-man blind scramble and an individual competition June 19-21. Registration is \$60 per person for the scramble and \$40 per individual and includes lunch, cart and green fees. For more information, please contact Celesta Johnson at (918) 759-7944.

The co-ed volleyball tournament is open to everyone and limited to the first 20 teams. All

games will be played at the Claude Cox Omniplex and the entry fee is \$75. For more information, please contact Billie Harjochee at (918) 732-7960.

The adult 3-on-3 basketball tournament will begin Sat., June 13 at 9 a.m., at the Okmulgee Middle School Gym at 1421 E. Martin Luther King Drive. There is a \$40 entry fee and the deadline for registration is May 31. For more information, contact Sprint Williams at (918) 853-6767 or (918) 759-1219.

Fast-pitch softball for the first 20 men's and women's teams will also be held at the Omniplex June 19-21. Entry fee will be \$250 per team. For more information, call LuAnn Bemo-Bear at (918) 260-3674 or Skeet Bemo at (918) 344-0798.

Calling all graduating seniors

by Rebecca Landsberry
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE — Along with highlighting the upcoming events at the 35th annual Creek Festival, June's Extra Edition will also feature all Muscogee (Creek) graduating seniors.

If you or someone you know is graduating from a high school, college, master's/doctoral program or technical school, please submit a short biography including the school from which you're graduating, parents/grandparents, clan, tribal town, activities, awards/honors and future plans along with a current photo to: Communications Dept., C/O Starla Bush, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447 or e-mail information to: SBush@muscogeenation-nsn.gov.



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Editorial statements appearing in **The Muscogee Nation News**, guest columns and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of **The Muscogee Nation News**, its advisors nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. **The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate **The Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed First Class from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

TO CHANGE OR SUBMIT AN ADDRESS, PLEASE CALL (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wmurphy@muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

EXECUTIVE

Legal notices

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN re the Name Change of)
David Brent Moffer) Case Number CV 2009-59

NOTICE OF FILING PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TO: Whom it may concern

David Brent Moffer, born September 25, 1942 has filed a *Petition* in the above Court to have his name changed from David Brent Moffer to David Brent Harjo-Moffer and the same will be heard in the courtroom of Judge Patrick E. Moore, located in the District Court of the Muscogee Creek Nation, Okmulgee District, P.O. Box 652, Okmulgee OK 74447, on the 16th day of June, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock A.m., or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard. Any person may file a written protest in this case prior to the date set for the hearing.

Given under my hand a seal this 17th day of April, 2009

COURT CLERK
Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Oklahoma
By: Debbie King
Deputy

(SEAL)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP)
OF THE PERSON AND ESTATE OF) Case No. GD-2009-09
U.W.P. AND J.L.P.,) Judge Patrick E. Moore

Minor children.)

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: Ben Hayes

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for Guardianship of a Minor Child in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD-2009-09, styled In re the Guardianship of U.W.P. and J.L.P., minor child. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled guardianship over the minor children based on abandonment.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 29th day of June, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 13th day of May, 2009.

Nancy Jukich, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court,
Okmulgee District
By: Debbie King
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the Name Change of:)
J.L.K., a minor child,)
by and through his natural mother and)
Guardian, JENNIFER RANAE KELLY,) Case Number CV 2009-42
Petitioner,) Judge Patrick E. Moore

NOTICE OF FILING PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TO: Whom it may concern

J.L.K., a minor child by and through his natural mother and guardian, JENNIFER RANAE KELLY, born May 29, 2008, has filed a *Petition* in the above Court to have the minor child's name changed from J.L.K. to J.L.D. and the same will be heard in the courtroom of Judge Patrick E. Moore, located in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, on the 2nd day of June, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock a.m., or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard. Any person may file a written protest in this case prior to the date set for the hearing.

Given under my hand a seal this 20 day of April, 2009.

Nancy Jukich, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation,
Okmulgee District, Oklahoma
By: Jennifer Smith
Deputy

District Court filings for January 2009 (continued from May MNN - A4)

Tulsa Adjustment Bureau v. Norma Thompson Foreign Judgment

Divorce:

Joanna King v. William Petree	Divorce
Shonda Hartley v. Michael Hartley	Divorce
Kristal Bagby v. Eric Bagby II	Divorce
Joan Shepherd v. James Dickerson	Divorce
Diana Kline v. David Kline	Divorce
Amanda Soliday v. Ted Soliday	Divorce
Christina Thetford v. Cameron Thetford	Divorce
Amber Dearman v. Jeremy Dearman	Divorce
Loper Jones v. Angela Jones	Divorce
Adrienne Bowers v. Michael Bowers	Divorce
Tommy Anderson Jr., v. Henia Anderson	Divorce
Zack Pickering v. Lydia Pickering	Divorce

Family Domestic:

TCSS, ex rel., Mark Bell Jr., v. Lydia Taylor	Child Support
CSE, ex rel., Erika Dutcher v. Keith Nelson	Child Support
CSE, ex rel., Kimberly Hall v. Michael Kennedy	Child Support
CSE, ex rel., Dana Hagan v. Aaron Berry	Child Support
CSE, ex rel., Amanda Campbell v. Robert Martin	Child Support

Ex-Parte:

Dorothy Burden v. Al Berryhill	Ex-Parte
Cheryl Bartosh v. Al Berryhill	Ex-Parte
Floyd Harjo v. Edna Harjo	Ex-Parte
Mary Ann Solorzano v. Joshua Pascale	Ex-Parte
Amber Dearman v. Jeremy Dearman	Ex-Parte

Criminal Misdemeanors:

MCN v. Eugenia Gaches	Ct. 1: Cheating by Check
MCN v. Shelley Yargee	Ct. 1: Malicious Mischief
	Ct. 2: Breaking and Entering
MCN v. Marsha Harjo	Ct. 1: False Application
MCN v. Rachael July	Ct. 1: False Application
MCN v. Ronald Cleghorn	Ct. 1: Disorderly Conduct
MCN v. Mary Soloranzo	Ct. 1: Cheating by Check

Criminal Felonies:

MCN v. Tina Decke	Ct. 1: Possession of Illegal Drugs
	Ct. 2: Possession of Illegal Drug Paraphernalia
MCN v. Timothy Bruner	Ct. 1: Possession of Illegal Drugs

Traffic:

MCN v. Hannah Busch	Ct. 1: Duties in Event of an Accident
MCN v. Linda Berna	Ct. 1: Expired Tag
MCN v. Torre Dela	Ct. 1: Disorderly Conduct
MCN v. Travis Miller	Ct. 1: No Insurance
MCN v. Ronnie Greenhaw	Ct. 1: No Insurance
MCN v. Rachael Sellers	Ct. 1: DUS
MCN v. Mary Lou Sherman	Ct. 1: DUS
MCN v. Mary Lou Sherman	Ct. 1: Expired Tag
MCN v. Ashley Phillips	Ct. 1: No Insurance
MCN v. Ashley Phillips	Ct. 1: Operating in a Manner not Reasonable and Proper
MCN v. Brian Chamberlain	Ct. 1: Expired Tag
MCN v. Jennifer Castu	Ct. 1: Disorderly Conduct
MCN v. Larry Jameson	Ct. 1: No Insurance
MCN v. Shawna Stice	Ct. 1: No Insurance
MCN v. Shawna Stice	Ct. 1: DUS
MCN v. Reyes Gonzales	Ct. 1: No Insurance
MCN v. Reyes Gonzales	Ct. 1: DUS
MCN v. Johnny Stem II	Ct. 1: Driving Under Revocation
MCN v. Alejandro Alvarez	Ct. 1: DUS
MCN v. Marco Salazar	Ct. 1: No Insurance
MCN v. Marco Salazar	Ct. 1: No License
MCN v. Ike Brooks	Ct. 1: No Insurance
MCN v. Steven Wood	Ct. 1: DUS

National Council Spotlight: Rep. David Nichols

by Angel Ellis
MNN Senior Writer

OKMULGEE — David Nichols has been serving the tribe as a National Council Representative since 1994. While there was a brief break for him after 2005, Nichols came back in 2008.

“At first I was disappointed when I lost by 28 votes, but eventually I came to believe that this period of looking in was beneficial,” said Nichols. He has served as many as six years consecutively. During these six years, he held Seat E for the Okmulgee District. Nichols is currently in the second year of a four-year term, which began in 2008.

Among his many goals as a National Council Representative for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Nichols has worked to cultivate the relationships between the tribal, city and state governments within Oklahoma. “I believe that is important we as a nation work together with the cities, schools and the communities in which our citizens live,” said Nichols.



He explained that these needs of the schools and communities affect the daily lives of citizens living within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and there for should be a concern to the tribe as well.

One of the areas in which Nichols would like to see the tribe make some

was school-aged.

It was the time Nichols spent with his grandmother that has brought attention to and perhaps gave Nichols insight to another of his primary concerns for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Nichols recalled accompanying his

care. Some illustrated the nightmarish situation of being shuffled from one facility to another while the patient was seriously ill; scenarios where patients with life-threatening cancer might be required to hop-scotch to and from health care facilities all over the Muscogee Nation.

“We need to take health care more seriously, we need to deliver a livable system to the people who depend on it.” —David Nichols

advancements is in viable businesses. He gave examples of how some tribes are expanding the scope of tribally-operated businesses, and expressed his hope that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation will one day do the same.

Nichols has been a resident of the Okmulgee area for some 45 years. As a Council Rep., he has often met with Muscogee citizens of the area and made many contacts throughout the counties that comprise the nation. As young child, Nichols was in the care of his grandmother. These years for Nichols were spent in Hughes County until he

grandmother to Indian Health Services facilities. These trips to the nearest facilities, which in this instance would be Tecumseh, could often lead to an all day event for a simple checkup. He recalled being a youngster and sitting with his grandmother in the hallway of the clinic. “Noon might roll around and they would tell us to return after lunch,” said Nichols. “After lunch we might wait until late afternoon,” he continued. “Health care really hasn’t changed much since I was child. We have got to take the health of our nation seriously,” Nichols stated.

Nichols explained the many conversations he has had with citizens who were upset about the status quo of health

“We need more doctors and space, our clinics are out growing themselves,” said Nichols. He mentioned the need for a modern, centralized hospital and clinics located in strategic areas of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in order to serve more citizens.

“Health care is a daily job, waiting for a board to meet monthly has not worked,” said Nichols. Nichols believes that the first steps to a solution for the Nation’s health care took place when the administration took interest in the health care system. “Health care is the one thing that every politician promises to improve, but the reality is that it hasn’t changed much,” said Nichols.

2009 Living Legends nomination deadline set for May 27

Media Release
MCN Public Relations

OKMULGEE — The 35th Annual Creek Festival is seeking nominees for the Living Legends ceremony which will honor two tribal citizens who have devoted many years of service to the betterment of the Creek people.

Two individuals will be selected by a committee from nominations which are to be submitted on or before Wed., May 27, 2009. Nominees must be Creek citizens, at least 55 years of age who have devoted many years to the betterment of Muscogee

Creek life, including government or other areas such as art, crafts, politics, education and/or ceremonial/religious contributions.

The committee will select two individuals from submitted nominees and honor them during the Liv-

ing Legends ceremony on Fri., June 19 at 5:30 p.m., on the local stage at the Claude Cox Omniplex.

All nominees must be submitted to the Office of the Principal Chief at: P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Business / Governmental
Steve Bruner - Chairman
Pete Beaver - Vice-Chair
Larry Cahwee
Selina Jayne-Dornan
David Nichols
Travis Scott
Paula Willits

Meetings: Thursday prior to Planning Session at 6 p.m., in the Council chambers.

Tribal Affairs
Bill S. Fife - Chairman
Sam Alexander - Vice-Chair
David Hill
Adam Jones
Eddie LaGrone
Carmin Tecumseh

Meetings: Third Tuesday at 5:30 p.m., in the Council chambers.

Human Development
Johnnie Greene - Chairman
Darrell Proctor - Vice Chair
Shirlene Ade
Ron Cleghorn
James Jennings
Keeper Johnson

Meetings: 1st Monday at 7 p.m., in the Council chambers.

Community Services / Cultural
Cherrah Quiett - Chairman
Roger Barnett- Vice Chair
Terrie Anderson
Robert Hufft
Kara Medina
Lena Wind

Meetings: Second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m., in the Council chambers.

LEGISLATIVE

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• **Wacoche Family reunion**
MUSKOGEE – The Wacoche Family will celebrate their 23rd annual family reunion Sat., May 23 at Wacoche Hall on the Bacone College campus in Muskogee.

Rev. July Tecumseh will be the special speaker for the event and activities are also planned throughout the day including horseshoes, bingo, volleyball and door prize giveaways.

Organizers are asking that family members bring a covered dish and pictures to share. Donated door prizes will also be accepted.

This will be the last reunion because of health issues. For more information, please contact Jean Wacoche Berryhill at (918) 756-2318 or at (918) 629-9052.

• **Alexander-Williams Family reunion**

MAUD – The Alexander-Williams family reunion will be held at noon, Sat., May 23 in Maud, Okla. There will be a cookout with hamburgers and hotdogs and each family member is requested to bring a family pack of hamburger meat, wieners, hotdog/hamburger buns, a dessert, a bag of ice and any side items including lettuce, tomato, ect.

Family members are also requested to bring drinks for each of their own family members along with lawn chairs. Old family photos will be shared along with games for all ages. Donations for door prizes will be appreciated.

Descendants of the late Robert Alexander and Abbie Williams, Rose, Mary and Clara May Williams are invited to attend. Donations may be sent to Diana at P.O. Box 824, Maud, OK 74854. For more information, please contact Abbie Larney at (405) 379-3721.

COMMUNITY

LANGUAGEUPDATES

Inter-tribal Council of Five Tribes to host Native Language Summit

by Kathleen Coachman
Mvskoke Language Program

OKMULGEE — This month has been a busy time for the Language Program. We are busy preparing for the upcoming Summer Camp in June. This year, we are sending copies of a CD of the words and phrases that we will be teaching at the camp. We are also busy developing a CD with a list of words and phrases for individuals who would like to use this as a learning tool. We hope to have it completed by the latter part of June.

During the Cultural Days, we presented two DVDs of Mvskoke stories, “The Story of Night and Day” and “Alligator Story.” These two stories along with additional stories will be made available on DVDs this summer. If you would like copies of the CDs or DVDs, please contact the Language Program at (918) 732-7724, so that we can put your name on a list to receive these items as



soon as they become available.

Another upcoming event is the Native Language Summit, sponsored by the Inter-tribal Council of the Five Tribes, Language Revitalization Committee. Each of the five tribes will be presenting what is going on with their Language Program. Other presenters include State Education Official and Keynote Speakers. Registration is free and open to all tribes, native language educators, and anyone else who has an interest in revitalizing native languages. The Summit will be held at Bacone College on May 29-30, 2009.

The Language Program staff continues to work diligently to meet the needs of the Mvskoke people and look forward to when the CDs and DVDs will be available to those who request it. Mvto.

MFSI works with chartered communities to build food pantries

Media Release
Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative

OKMULGEE — At the beginning of this year, two Muscogee (Creek) Nation communities made small monetary donations to Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative to help their community members begin small garden projects.

Holdenville and Checotah Creek Indian Community members devoted time to discuss the food crises locally and decided that MFSI could help them provide for their own food sources.

Holdenville Indian Community wanted to start their own food pantry, so instead of writing food vouchers for members to purchase food from Wal-Mart, the community could provide food by purchasing from tribal members’ fresh produce.

Many Creek citizens have knowledge of canning practices and methods of preserving other foods for the winter. MFSI has purchased a good tiller to fulfill the food needs of the communities and has tilled 20 small plots throughout the MCN boundaries.

There are first-time growers and many have planted, but have since become unable to do the hard work.

These once-thriving garden sites were easy for MFSI to till, however the new sites contained rocks and big roots that over worked our tiller and has now been broken.

MFSI will continue tilling for the communities after the tiller is repaired. The cost of repair has not been set, however, MFSI will hopefully raise the money needed to get it out as soon as possible.

There are over 40 families from throughout the MCN boundaries that have called needing help with gardens. You can help us, help the people by going to mvskokefood.org and making a generous contribution to MFSI’s Community Gardens Project, an after-work volunteer effort.

For more information on Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative, please contact Co-Directors Vicky Karhu or Ben Yahola at (918) 756 - 5915.



NWHRC hosts second round of AIDS prevention

by Angel Ellis
MNN Senior Writer

OKMULGEE — The National Women’s Health Resource Center will host the second round of an inter-generational approach to HIV/AIDS prevention with women across the lifespan training Fri.-Sat., June 26-27, 2009 at the Okmulgee County Extension Office located at 1901 N. Oklahoma, at the Okmulgee Fairgrounds. Sessions will be held from 5:30 to 9 p.m., Fri., June 26 and from 9 to 5 p.m., on Sat., June 27.

Eligible participants include American Indian women and girls ages 12-18 interested in attending training sessions regarding HIV/AIDS prevention. A household may be defined as mother-daughter, grandmother-granddaughter and or aunt-niece living in the same house.

Those who participate will receive a mileage stipend (one per house hold please) and each participant must complete all sessions. At the end of training, each adult and girl will receive \$50 only after completion of the second day of training. If a mother and daughter complete the course, they would each receive \$50. If a mother and two daughters attend, then all three participants would receive \$50 each. Those enrolled

in the training will also be served snacks and lunch.

The goal of the program is to teach cross-generations of women and other female members of the family (12 years and older) to develop healthy communication patterns built on caring, trusting relationships. Another goal is to equip women to give accurate information about their sexual health issues between other female members of the family 12 years and over by incorporating gender-focused, age specific, culturally competent and linguistically appropriate HIV/AIDS prevention information.

The goal of the NIWHRC is to recruit 40 individuals including 10 adult women and 30 girls ages 12-18. Interested applicants may contact Kimberley Chaffin at (918) 456-6094 ext. 112 or Janie Dibble at (918) 456-6094 ext. 103.

NIWHRC is also seeking assistance in recruiting participants. Interested parties may send contact information to Kimberley Chaffin at Kimberley@niwhrc.org. Prospective recruits will then be contacted by a staff member from the National Indian Women’s Health Resource Center.

INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE FIVE TRIBES LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE NATIVE LANGUAGE SUMMIT

May 29-30, 2009
Muskogee, Oklahoma
Bacone College

Keynote Address

Jessie Little Doe Baird

Wampanoag Language Reclamation Project

Sessions include Adult/Child Immersion, State Accreditation, College Program Development, Distance Learning, and much more. Conference is from 8am-4:30pm on Friday and 8am-4pm on Saturday.

Registration is FREE and open to all tribes, Native language educators, and anyone who has an interest in revitalizing tribal languages!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jennifer Johnson, Event Co-Coordinator

EMAIL: jennjohnson@seminolenation.com

Phone: 405-257-7261

Fax: 405-257-7209



Housing tries “green energy diet”

by Joshua Slane
Systems Analyst

OKMULGEE — Everyone knows that we need to be good guardians of the earth, I mean, it's only common sense, you take care of your home. However, in today's day and time, taking care of the earth is often a prohibitively expensive proposition.

However, the costs for “going green” are almost entirely front end, with high initial expenditures partially offset through savings which will be obtained down the road.

This high initial cost has usually kept the tribe from branching out into greener pastures, but when East Central Electric approached them with a grant, a deal was formed and the two decided to work together to build a green home, as a project of sorts.

According to Billy Moore “Creek Nation Housing was already building a pretty efficient house East Central Electric just took it a step or two further.

We had them add foundation insulation. Wet blown cellulose insulation in the walls, loose blown cellulose in the attic. Tech Shield roof decking, CFL bulbs, Marathon water heater, and the big one was the Geothermal heating and cooling system. After the house was completed East Central Electric added another electric meter to register the Geo usage only and another meter to register total electric usage.

This way we could see what the heating and cooling system was doing on its own.

The first month it took about \$1.23 to heat and cool on a daily average and last month it took 73 cents on a daily average.

We will continue monitoring this home for one and then be able to use this data to help educate not only the Creek Nation, but even our other member of East Central Electric,” Moore stated.

According to Country Living, the new “green” house, which houses a family of five, is being com-



Photograph submitted

Pictured above are Director of Member Services at East Central Electric Billy Moore, MCN Housing Development Manager Jeri Johnson and MCN Housing Development Specialist Gary Hudgens pose with the grant check that made this cooperation possible.

pared to a home built by Creek Nation which houses a family of four.

The improvements will have to show some serious dividends as the green improvements cost approximately \$11,000 above and be-

stant temperature of the earth to heat and cool homes and businesses with 40 to 70 percent less energy than conventional systems. While conventional furnaces and boilers burn a fuel to generate heat, geothermal

faces in attics to reduce solar heat gain into the attic.

What is TechShield Radiant Barrier Sheathing?

TechShield uses a unique patented process to laminate a thin, yet

“The first month it took about \$1.23 to heat and cool on a daily average and last month it took 73 cents on a daily average.”
- Billy Moore

yond the normal cost for building a house.

Due to this heightened cost, no more green houses such as this one are currently scheduled for construction, however the option is not entirely off the table either and the Housing Department is still in talks with East Central Electric. There is a tax credit available from the federal government for homeowners interested in going green.

According to the www.geoexchange.org and www.ipcorp.com, Geothermal / GeoExchange® heating and cooling uses the relatively con-

heat pumps use electricity to simply move heat from the earth into buildings, allowing much higher efficiencies. The most efficient fuel-burning heater can reach efficiencies around 95%, but a geothermal heat pump can move up to 4 units of heat for every unit of electricity needed to power the system, resulting in a practical equivalence of over 400% efficiency.

What is a radiant barrier?

Radiant Barrier is a highly reflective, low emitting material installed at the underside surface of the roof deck and the inside surface of gable ends or other vertical sur-

faces in attics to reduce solar heat gain into the attic.

How do radiant barriers “block” heat?

The aluminum radiant barrier has two properties that enable it to effectively block heat: emissivity and reflectivity. Aluminum's low emissivity allows it to prevent up to 97 percent of the radiant heat in the panel from radiating into the attic. Its high reflectivity allows it to help block heat from your living space from escaping through your roof deck to the outside.”

• Springfield to host memorial singing

OKEMAH — Springfield Methodist Church will host a memorial singing Sun., May 24 beginning at 7 p.m. Emcee for the event will be David Little and concessions will be available.

Directions from Okemah: travel two miles south on Hwy 27, four miles east then two miles south. Follow signs to church.

• All Nations to host gospel singing

MUSKOGEE — All Nations Mission Center will host a gospel singing Sun., May 24 beginning at 5 p.m. The center is located at 1530 W. Smith Ferry Rd., in Muskogee.

All gospel groups are welcome and concessions will be available. Guests are asked to bring their own lawn chairs and the emcee for the event will be Curtis Kinney.

For more information, call (918) 680-0778 or Pastor Jerry Dry at (918) 478-1970.

• Yeager Mission to host gospel singing

YEAGER — The Yeager Mission Indian Methodist Church will host a gospel singing Sat., June 13 beginning at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Signs will be posted for this event and directions from Wetumka are: go south on Hwy 75 for five miles, turn right (east) on E. 1280 Rd., and follow blacktop road into Yeager and continue on road. Turn at second road on left-hand side, travel two more blocks and the church will be visible.

From Holdenville at the intersection of Hwy 270 and 48, travel east on 270 for approximately 3.1 miles to Yeager Rd./CR N3740, then travel five miles, cross railroad tracks and turn right at the next section.

PROGRAMS

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Announcements

Mr. Indian OU

NORMAN — Jalin Keawphalouk was selected “Mr. Indian OU 2009-2010” on April 6, 2009. The event was held in the Mechem Auditorium, on the campus of the University of Oklahoma.



Mr. Indian OU was awarded a scholarship and his sash. For the talent portion he played “Amazing Grace” on a Kiowa Flute.

His platform was the importance of education for our Native American students.

He is a student at the University of Oklahoma and his major is Engineering.

He was escorted by Yirkita Jireh.

He is the son of Yotin and Clara Mae Keawphalouk.

He has two siblings; Michelle and Tai.

Grandparents are the late George “Toby” Alexander and Hattie Bruner Alexander. He is the nephew of Abbie Larney.

Miss Indian OU 2009-2010 is Dayrah Yellowfish and is pictured above.

Language Art Fair

NORMAN — Three students attending the Native American Language Art Fair at the Sam Noble Museum in Norman, placed second in the 6th-8th grade, Spoken Language Division.



Cynda Factor, Angel Johnson and Courtney Taylor who

portrayed the “Fallen Soldier” tribute with a prayer (Psalm 23); spoken in the Mvskoke language by Cynda and Angel.

Cynda has been participating for three years in the spoken language and winning first place, two years ago in the Individual Language category.

Cynda and Angel participated with the Alabama-Quassarte Inter-Tribal Youth Group and were taught the language by fluent Mvskoke speaker Mitch Jack.

Skit coordinators were Esther and Amy Yargee.

Cynda Factor is the daughter of Sharon Yargee and George Factor.

Angel Johnson is the daughter of Kay Lowe and Roley Johnson.

Courtney Taylor is the Granddaughter of Sylvia Taylor.

Birthdays

Madison Nicole McGirt

MOUNDS — Madison Nicole McGirt celebrated her third birthday with a theme of “Dora the Explorer” at Chuck E. Cheese.



She is the daughter of Chester and Stephanie McGirt.

She has eight siblings: R.D., Amber, Tristan, Dylan, the late Marcus (Bean), Gina, Lewis and Cordell McGirt.

Grandparents are Kay and Louis Marshall and the late Betty McGirt.

Great grandparents are the late Stoddard and Jeanetta Sullivan and the late C.O., Sr., and Samaria Marshall.

She is of the Deer Clan.

Leah Ann Hill

TECUMSEH — Leah Ann Hill is 12 years old and attends Cross Timbers Grade School in Tecumseh.

She placed first in the science fair at her school.

She is the daughter of Sherman Lee Hill and Annette Scott.

She has two siblings; Lila Hill and Rowdy Osceola. Paternal grandparents are Shirley Lee and the late Dave “Sonny” Hill. Maternal grandparents are Rusty Powell and Eldeen Tecumseh.

She is of the Otter Clan and attends Randall Baptist Church.



Anthony Wind and Taylor Scott

KIEFER — Anthony Wind Scott celebrated his birthday on March 7 and brother, Taylor Grant Wind celebrated his birthday on April 11.

Parents are Tommy and Robyn Wind-Tiger and Calvin Scott. Maternal grandparents are Georgia Gentry Wind and Grover and Melodie Wind.

Paternal grandparents are the late Doris Davis and the late Curtis Edward Scott. Maternal great grandparents are the late Jack W. Gentry and Sylvia S. Gentry and the late Jessie A. Wind Sr., and late Lillie Squirrel Wind.

They both attend Glenpool High School and are of the Bear Clan and the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town.



Birthdays, Births & Special Announcements!

Birthday:

Roll Number: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Theme of the party: _____

Parents: _____

Siblings: _____

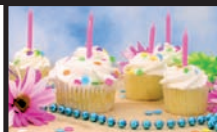
Maternal and Paternal grandparents: _____

Maternal and Paternal great grandparents: _____

School: _____

Clan: _____

Tribal Town: _____



Birth:

Roll Number: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Name of Hospital: _____

Weight: _____ pounds _____ ounces _____ inches

Parents: _____

Siblings: _____

Maternal and Paternal grandparents: _____

Maternal and Paternal great grandparents: _____

Clan: _____

Tribal Town: _____



Announcements:

Roll Number: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Parents: _____

Siblings: _____

Maternal and Paternal grandparents: _____

Maternal and Paternal great grandparents: _____

Clan: _____

Tribal Town: _____

Please attach announcement



PLEASE SEND PHOTO(S) To: MCN Communications Dept. • P.O. Box 580 • Okmulgee, OK 74447

Amateur boxing teams battle at New York

• Oklahoma Indian boxers to fight Seneca Team in one-day event

by Gerald Wofford
MNN Sports Reporter

AKWESASNE, N.Y., –Under the guidance of long time east coast trainer Bob Miller, the Seneca Nation and the Native American Boxing Council (NABC), an amateur tournament will be held between Native American amateur boxers from Oklahoma and New York.

The tournament will be held in Akwesasne, N.Y., Sat., May 30 at the All-In Lounge beginning at 7 p.m.

Miller, who is a trainer and Eastern Tournament Director of the New York Golden, contacted Gerald Wofford, President of the NABC about inviting a team to New York for the event. “We are proud to be bringing a team to the east coast for this event,” said Wofford, “we know there are plenty of good Native American

amateur boxers all over the country and hope that New York gets a chance to see these boxers from Oklahoma and what they can do.”

Miller agrees and also hopes

different parts of the state,” Miller said.

The NABC plans to create a follow-up tournament in September in Oklahoma and invite teams

tentatively scheduled for June at Haskell Indian Nations University.

As such, NAABA’s agreement with USA Boxing will assist

and enhance NAABA’s intent to create a program of athletic excellence for Native American Amateur Boxing at both the National and International level. Further, NAABA proposes to provide a platform for developing the sport through communication and education; provide

leadership in its promotion; maintain a role as a leader in the development of boxing equipment and safety rules; and comply with all required official rules, regulations and policies of USA Boxing.



that the event will spark interest among local Native American youth in the New York area to consider participating in boxing. “We are trying to create interest to get more Indian youth to box, I figure I can bring them in from

from N.Y., Ariz., NM., S.D., Neb., and Canada as well.

In related news, a National Native American Boxing Championship will be planned by the Native American Amateur Boxing Association (NAABA) and is

OLD SCHOOL vs. NEW SCHOOL

Is Native American fast-pitch softball a dying sport?

by Gerald Wofford
MNN Sports Reporter

This is a tough question, probably the toughest I have had to deal with concerning the illustrious history of ‘Old School vs. New School’.

I have to say that yes it is a ‘dying sport,’ and it’s not easy for me to say that.

The reason is because it deals with matters of the heart (yes you can call me an old softie, not sofke or relic, or whatever). I guess that’s why I got the column of old school in the first place, but the reason I feel so attached to this subject and the stand I am taking is remembering those old leagues from the 70s and the great competition you would see from Indian men in their 20s, 30s, and even in their 40s out giving it their all in summer leagues and weekend tournaments.

The games weren’t just played on weekends, but also on weeknights. Standings were placed in daily news-

papers and Indian teams didn’t just play each other, but teams that weren’t Native American as well.

The teams gained local status and if you ask anyone that remembers that era, they’ll reminisce about the remarkable games they saw and the fierce level of competition that was displayed.

The fast-pitch era ushered in the slow-pitch game, and with that allowed for more people to play. Now this isn’t necessarily bad because this invites everyone, but in a way the fast pitch game was affected by this. Because the ability to play fast pitch requires greater athletic talent and commitment. I mean why go hit a speeding fast softball when a slow arching softball has competitive leagues and the opportunity to play longer in age is available.

So it’s tough to say this because I would like to see it continue forever, but time changes things, and it did with this.

by Jason Salsman
MNN Sports Reporter

You could certainly make an argument here that Native American fast-pitch is not as popular as it once was. The good ‘ol days of 30-team tournaments definitely seems like a thing of the past. There’s just not a lot of people playing fast-pitch anymore. But I don’t think that the sport is necessarily dying.

I think there has to be interest in the Native American youth to keep it going. It’s the young kids that are going to have to start playing the game more. There are encouraging signs though, because there are many younger players putting teams together and getting involved.

My uncle, who was a player/manager for Turkey Springs softball, told me that he worries sometimes that it will never be as big as it once was. I tell you what, sitting around listening to his stories about the all-Indian state tournaments back in the hey-day when

there were more teams than they knew what to do with, never gets old to me. There’s a certain history of the game too, that he says needs to be remembered. It needs to be played the right way. No trash talk, just fundamentals and a lot of effort. To me, the tribal festivals during the summer are carrying the torch right now. These festivals are mostly where you are going to find the best competition around here anymore.

Heck, a local team a couple years back had to go clear to Florida to find a tournament that would even partly resemble what kind they used to play in back in the 70s. Back then, these tournaments were the social events. Not only would you play, but you could visit and have fun afterward. That’s what we need to get back to. Make sure everyone knows how great of a game fast-pitch is, then let the rest take care of itself. It’ll come back around.

•Native American Warriors’ Society to host summer pool and golf tournaments

TULSA—The Native American Warriors’ Society will host a pool tournament that will benefit currently active Native American service men and women in the form of care packages to be sent to Iraq and Afghanistan.

The pool tournament will be held June 12-13 at Mago’s in Tulsa. Registration will begin at 6:30 p.m., on Fri., June 12 followed by play beginning at 7 p.m., and on Sat., at 1 p.m. Mago’s management will run the tournament which will feature a double-elimination format.

The tournament will feature 32 men and 16 women and the entry fee is set at \$25 per person (\$10 of which will go directly to the care packages). Participants must be at least 1/4 Native American degree according to their CDIB card in order to be eligible for play.

A golf challenge is also in the works for Fri., July 17 at the Cherokee Hills Golf Club located at 777 W. Cherokee St., in Catoosa, Okla. Registration will begin at 7 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at 8:30. The format will be a four-person scramble. The entree fees will be \$95 for individuals or \$380 for a team of four and will include green fee, cart, range balls, lunch, goodie bags, PGA golf passport discount book and a return-play discount card from Cherokee Hills Golf Club.

Hole and team sponsorships are available and prizes will be awarded for first and second place teams, the longest drive, closest to the pin and hole-in-one. Four people will also have the chance to win \$100,000 at a shoot-out.

Monetary and supply donations (food, practical and personal hygiene items) for care packages will be accepted and appreciated at both events. For more information and a complete list of items that may be donated, please contact Janene Alford at (918) 587-1109 or (918) 344-1270.

•6th annual All Nations Bowling Tournament

OKLAHOMA CITY – The sixth annual All Nations Bowling Tournament will be held June 5-7 at Holiday Lanes located at 44 SE 44th in Oklahoma City.

There are a singles/doubles spots as well as a mixed team format. Special room rates are available at the Quality Inn located at 1-240 and Western. For more information, please call (405) 634-2451.

• Scooter to be raffled at 35th annual Creek Festival

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office Tourism & Recreation is currently selling tickets to win a 2009 KYMCO Grandvista 250 scooter.

The scooter will get an estimated 70 MPG and will be given away during the 2009 Muscogee Nation Festival on Sat., June 20, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for the drawing may be purchased at the Office of Tourism & Recreation in the main building of the MCN complex. Tickets will be sold for \$2 each or three may be purchased for \$5.

Participants need not be present to win. For more information, please contact the Office of Tourism & Recreation at (918) 732-7993.

• Arts and Crafts booth space still available

OKMULGEE — Tourism and Recreation would like to extend an invitation to all artisans in the chartered Creek communities to participate in the 2009 Festival.

If you or someone you know is an artist or craftsman, consider purchasing a 15'x20' booth space at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival in June 2009.

For more information, contact Brian On-The-Hill at Tourism & Recreation at (918) 732-7993 to receive a booth application. Spots will be available until filled.

The 35th Annual Creek Festival

• Celebrating Muscogee (Creek) people, culture and heritage

by Brian On-The-Hill
MCN Tourism & Recreation

OKMULGEE — This year marks the 35th anniversary of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival in Okmulgee, Okla. Renowned for exciting entertainment and numerous activities, the Festival is host to thousands of spectators and participants during the first three weekends in June. This year's theme, "From the Same Fire," refers to the Creator's gift of fire given to the Muscogee people when the Earth was new.

The Festival begins with the Miss Muscogee Scholarship Pageant. The Miss and Jr. Miss categories will be held June 5 at 7 p.m., followed by the Little Miss and Sr. Miss categories on June 6 at 10 a.m. Both days of the pageant will be held at the Henryetta High School Auditorium in Henryetta, Okla. Witness the skills, talents and beauty of Muscogee women from the age of four years to 55 and better.

June 12-13, the slow-pitch softball tournament bats off at the Claude Cox Omniplex just west of the intersection of Highway 75 and

Loop 56 in Okmulgee, Okla. This weekend includes arts and crafts and food vendors throughout the day and live entertainment featuring Tulsa band Imzadi at 7 p.m. Saturday evening.

The official Festival weekend kicks off with a ceremonial Stomp Dance and free feed on Thurs., June 18 at 6 p.m., on the campus of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Complex on the southeast corner of the intersection of Highway 75 and Loop 56 in Okmulgee, Okla. Festival activities accelerate through June 21 at the Claude Cox Omniplex and include an IPRA rodeo; concerts featuring Brandy, Joe Diffie, and James Otto; sports tourna-

ments; arts and crafts; food vendors; a parade through historic downtown Okmulgee; children's activities and much more. All events are FREE and everyone is welcome.

Join us for this momentous gathering and enjoy meeting old friends and new acquaintances. Place a float in the parade and advertise your program or company.

For a complete listing of times, events and contacts, visit the Festival Event section of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's official website www.themuscogeeecreeknation.com.

Because the Muscogee (Creek)

Nation is a large contributor to the economy of Oklahoma, we feel that the MCN Festival is the perfect opportunity for everyone to come together and celebrate our efforts in making positive accomplishments throughout the year. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival Committee invites any and all parties interested in joining the celebration to become a sponsor of the MCN Festival. Sponsorships are available at several different levels and the Festival Committee is open to developing one that fits best with your company or organization.

For more information or to become a sponsor, please contact The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Tourism & Recreation at (918) 732-7993 or toll-free at (800) 482-1979. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is a tribal government located in east central Oklahoma. The Creek Nation boundary includes eleven counties: Creek, Hughes (Tukvptce), Mayes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Rogers, Seminole, Tulsa and Wagoner.



“I have Lupus but it doesn’t have me”

• Citizen shares journey with illness for Lupus Awareness Month

submitted by Racheal Sumka
Office of the Principal Chief

OKMULGEE — May is Lupus Awareness month. Lupus is a widespread, chronic (lifelong) and terminal (some cases) autoimmune disease that for unknown reasons, causes the immune system to attack the body's own tissue and organs, including the joints, kidneys, heart, lungs, brain, blood, liver or skin.

The immune system normally protects the body against viruses, bacteria, etc. In an autoimmune disease like lupus, the immune system loses its ability to tell the difference between foreign substances and its own cells and tissue. The immune system then makes antibodies directed against "self."

Researchers estimate that at least 1.5 million Americans have lupus. Lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age (15-44). However, men, children and teens may develop lupus, too. Minority women (African Americans, Hispanics, Asians and Native Americans) are 2-3 times more likely to develop lupus.

What are the symptoms of lupus? Symptoms of lupus often mimic other less serious illnesses. Symptoms can

range from mild to life-threatening. Lupus can go into periods where symptoms are not present, called remission.

SYMPTOMS	OCCURRENCE
Achy joints	95%
Arthritis (swollen joints)	90%
Skin rashes	74%
Kidney involvement	50%
Seizures	15%
Mouth or nose ulcers	12%
Hair loss	27%
Memory loss (mostly short term)	95%
Prolonged or extreme fatigue	81%
Pain in the chest on deep breathing	45%
Butterfly-shaped rash across the cheek and nose	42%
Sun or light sensitivity (photosensitivity)	30%
Abnormal blood clotting problems	20%

Lupus is not infectious, rare, cancerous or AIDS. Researchers do not know what causes lupus. Scientists believe there is a genetic predisposition to the disease; it is known that environmental factors also play a role in trig-

gering the disease. Although, a person's genes may increase the chance that he or she will develop lupus, some factors that may trigger lupus include infections, antibiotics (penicillin, amoxicillin), ultraviolet light from fluorescent light bulbs, extreme stress, certain drugs and hormones. Hormonal factors may explain why lupus occurs more frequently in females than in males.

Although there is no known cure as of yet, researchers across the world are experimenting with many different drugs.

Increased professional awareness and improved diagnostic techniques and evaluation methods are contributing to the early diagnosis and treatment of lupus. Lupus is also a disease of flares (the symptoms worsen and you feel ill) and remissions (the symptoms improve and you feel better). Lupus can range from mild to life-threatening and should always be treated by a doctor. With current methods of therapy 80-90 percent of people with non-organ threatening lupus can look forward to a normal lifespan.

The above information was ob-

tained from the Lupus Foundation and other informational sites, in hopes of making people aware of this illness.

I have lupus, but it doesn't have me. I was diagnosed with lupus approximately five years ago. It most definitely is a battle each day I wake up but it's not so big that the Lord can't handle it because I left this illness in his hands.

Sure, I experienced moments of depression, feeling sorrow for myself, that's when I realized I can't fight this battle alone. People around me occasionally have to hear me complain, they are sympathetic, because sometimes it helps to talk to someone about it but what really helps is talking to someone who is experiencing what I'm experiencing.

I have a niece, some cousins and a few friends that have this illness also. I don't know of any local support groups, so it helps when my friends and I compare our symptoms. We encourage one another and we always end the conversation with "I'll pray for you." That's why I know the Lord is fighting this battle with me, if not for me.

- Rachel Sumka

CULTURAL